

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Outpatient birth centers -- licensure -- rulemaking. (1) The department shall license outpatient birth centers using the procedures provided for in Title 50, chapter 5, parts 1 and 2.

(2) Pregnancy-related care provided by an outpatient birth center is limited to ambulatory patients with a normal low-risk pregnancy presenting no complications.

(3) The application for an outpatient birth center must include:

(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) the location of the outpatient birth center;

(c) the name of the person or persons who will manage or supervise the outpatient birth center; and

(d) an acknowledgment that the outpatient birth center will consult with or transfer care to a health care facility as required by the health care provider's scope of practice;

(e) a collaborative agreement with a physician with admitting privileges at the nearest hospital by which the physician will take responsibility for the care of a patient in the event of an emergency admission of the patient to the hospital; and

(f) a transfer arrangement with a hospital by which:

(i) the birth center provides notice to the hospital of the birth center's delivery schedule;

(ii) the birth center provides prior notice to the hospital of a transfer of a patient to the hospital in the event of an emergency; and

(iii) pertinent health care information accompanies the patient upon transfer to the hospital.

(3) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement and administer this section, including but not limited to:

(a) the type of acknowledgment to be required on the application from each type of health care provider licensed to provide prenatal, delivery, postnatal, and newborn care; and

(b) the medical situations in which an outpatient birth center must consult with a health care facility or transfer care of a patient to a health care facility.

(4) Rules adopted under this section must be based on the respective scopes of practice for health care providers licensed to provide prenatal, delivery, postnatal, and newborn care.

(5) The department may require by rule that a birth center be accredited by a nationally recognized birth center accreditation organization.